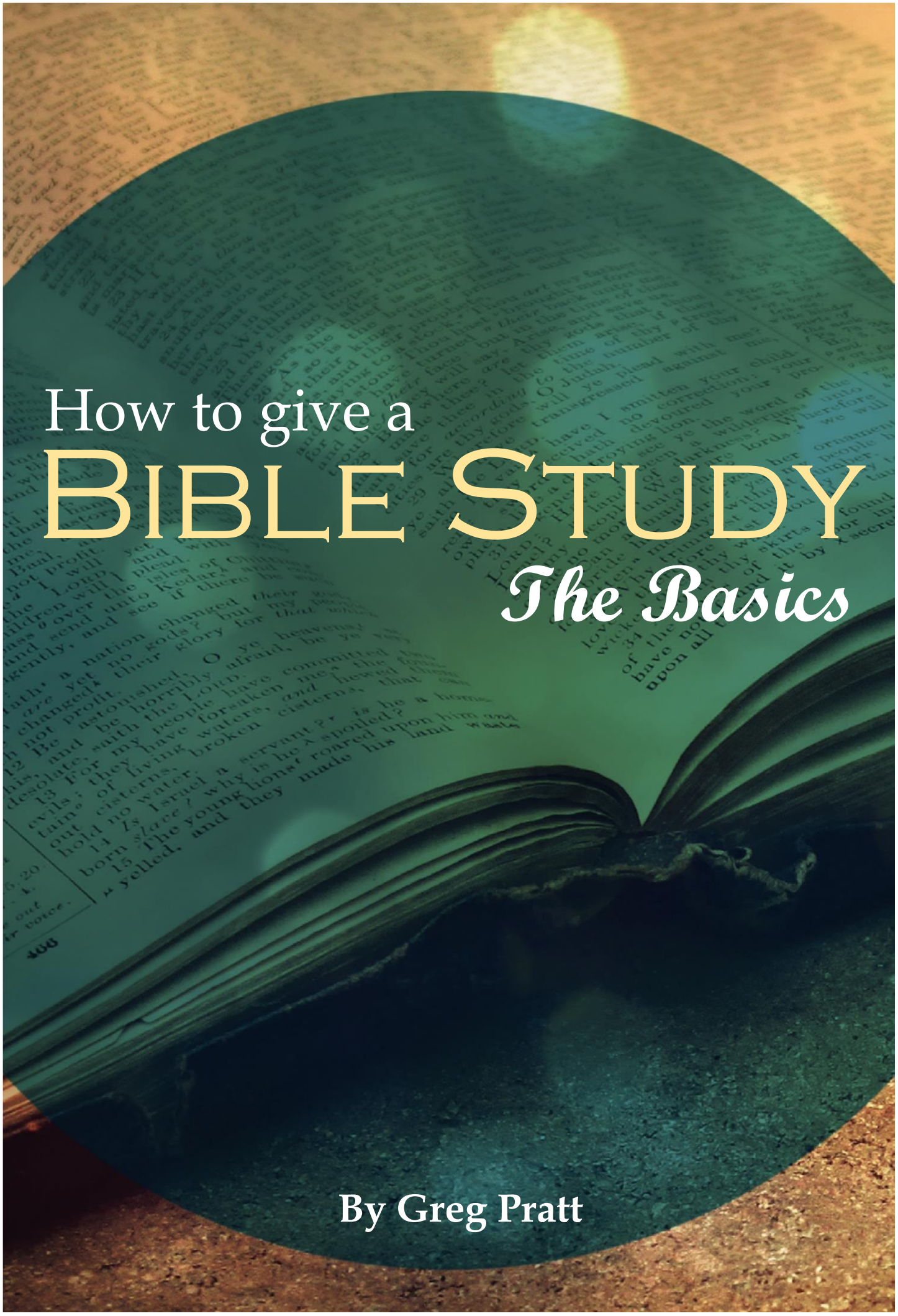

How to give a
BIBLE STUDY
The Basics
By Greg Pratt

For many, giving a Bible Study can be daunting. You might be scared, feel like you don't know enough Bible and the list could go on. But it doesn't have to be that way. Giving Bible studies can be one of the most rewarding, life changing, spiritually significant experiences you could ever have. Here, you will find tips to giving a Bible Study. Take it, read it and then why not give it a go for yourself.

Make Jesus the central theme of each study

Bible study is not simply seeking to build up knowledge, but it is to lead someone into a relationship with Jesus. So, with this in mind, be sure to think through every study you will present and ensure Jesus is the central theme. This is especially important in the first few studies as it is your goal during this period to introduce the student to Jesus and provide opportunities to accept Him as their Saviour. This is vital to a successful study, especially in light of our doctrines which only have meaning and significance when understood and viewed through the Cross of Jesus.

Preparation

Always plan and prepare your study beforehand. Never try and "wing it". Mark you Bible, write down notes, stick post it notes through important parts of the Bible and always pray for the person you are preparing to study with that what you are preparing will be understood

Begin with Prayer

Begin with prayer and be sure to keep it simple, short, to the point. Make sure you ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Introduction

Depending if you are using a study guide or using your own Bible, read or give an introduction to the lesson, outlining the topic and explaining how the study will progress.

Be yourself

Never be someone you are not, the student will pick up on this and will more often than not lead them to feel a little uneasy. By being yourself you invite them to walk across the relationship bridge without fear or second guesses and you will also bring authenticity and integrity to the study.

The KISS Principle

All music students will tell you the KISS principle when learning to play an instrument. It is "Keep it Simple Stupid!" The same goes for Bible Studies. The more simplicity in presentation of your topic the greater the understanding will be. There is no need for a Bible knowledge bombardment or to share words that can only be found in a thesaurus, but rather present a simple study on the topic for the day. Ellen White writes in Gospel Workers p.89, "Never search for words that will give the impression that you are learned. The greater your simplicity, the better will your words be understood". Remember this is not about how much you know, but about assisting your friend in knowing Jesus.

Oops…

If someone has a wrong answer never say, “That is wrong!” but rather just point out that you have different answers to the question and then read the passage again. Never push or argue the answer because you are teaching your friend how to study and know Jesus and so essentially you want them to find the answers for themselves. Always show respect, kindness, understanding and gentleness in your approach.

Encouragement

Always seek to use reflective listening and provide encouragement using words like, “ that’s a good answer” or “Excellent!” or “Great job!” These encourages them to find out more and keep studying. It makes them want to find the next answer.

Ummm…

If you don’t know the answer to a question NEVER try to bluff your way through or try give an answer that you know nothing about. Just say, “Great question, I’ll go away and study about it and we can study the answer together next week”. For your own credibility it is better to be honest than to end up looking the fool!

Clarity

Always seek out clarity and ensure the student is understanding what they are studying. Never just assume that the student is understanding what you are sharing. If you are not careful you could almost be at the end of a study and you have left the student back at question 1. Go at their pace not yours even if this means the study will take 2 weeks instead of 1.

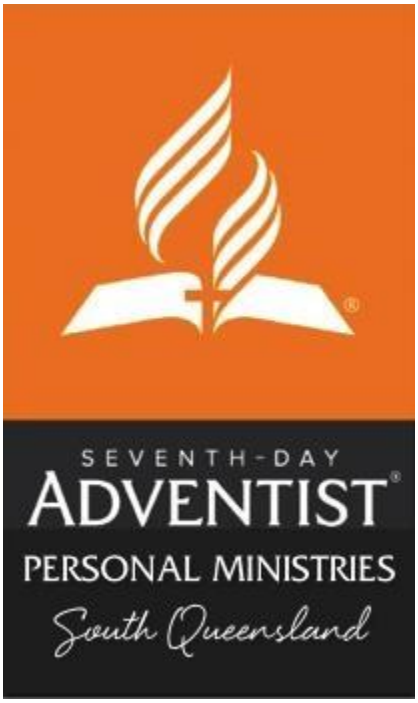
Always be on time

Nothing will annoy the student more than for you to be late to the study or go over time, especially in the first few sessions. Always try to stick to 45 minutes to a 1 hour. That way it will not feel like a burden on the student. As time progresses and you begin to know each other more and maybe have more questions and in depth discussions, going overtime may not be as critical.

Conclude with Prayer

Thank Jesus for sending His Holy Spirit to lead and guide the study and for the new truths found and ask for the Lord’s leading and guidance in the friend(s) lives over the next week or time period before the next study. As time progresses you may like to ask the student if they have any prayer requests or if they would like to pray. But, generally, you as the teacher pray for the first few studies together.

If you need assistance or have questions when taking a Bible Study your Pastor or Elders will be more than happy to assist you. For more Bible Study resources, guides and ideas please contact the Personal Ministries Department by calling (07) 3218 7777 or email gregpratt@adventist.org.au



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